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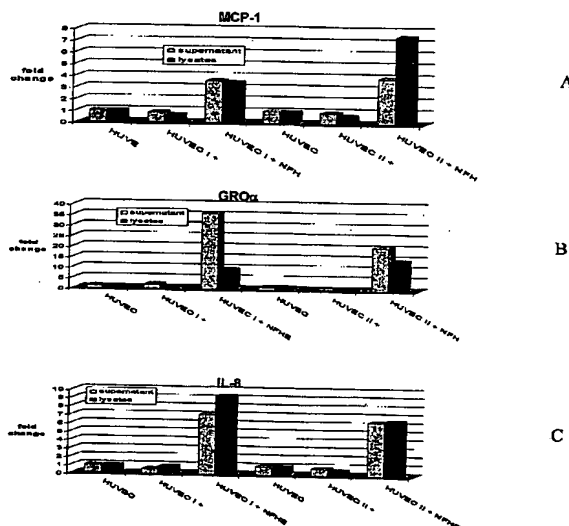
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(54) Title: **NF-HEV COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS OF USE**



(57) Abstract: Aspects of the present invention relate to NF-HEV nuclear factor genes and polypeptides. Other aspects related to the use of NF-HEV nuclear factor polynucleotides and polypeptides expressed in endothelial cells from chronically inflamed tissues, particularly in high endothelial venules endothelial cells (HEVECs) and endothelial cells from HEV-like vessels and small blood vessels, in connection with rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease. Aspects of the invention also relates to drug screening assays for identifying compounds capable of modulating NF-HEV activity, wherein such compounds can be used in inhibiting or preventing chronic inflammation.

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